

By employing the components described above and stabilizing the Ni-Fcc matrix, the Ni based alloy in claim 2 of the present invention displays excellent corrosion resistance relative to supercritical water environments containing sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, and hydrofluoric acid, and enables operations to be continued for longer periods. The effects described above can be obtained especially by decreasing the quantity of C so as to prevent the precipitation of carbides with Cr, and by succeeding in the production of the alloy composition which consists of the stabilized Ni-Fcc matrix, (see, e.g., paragraphs [0024] and [0029] of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0158203, which corresponds to the present application).

On the other hand, in the invention of Kazuo et al., stress corrosion cracking is prevented by positively precipitating the carbides with Cr in the grain boundaries (see, e.g., claim 3 and paragraphs [0022] and [0025] of Kazuo), and losing the Cr depletion layer.

That is, in the present invention, the treatment of precipitating the carbides with Cr is not carried out, and the corrosion resistance to supercritical water environments containing inorganic acids is improved by stabilizing the Ni-Fcc matrix and suppressing the precipitation of the carbides with Cr. In sharp contrast to the present invention, Kazuo teaches improving stress corrosion cracking in high-temperature water by positively precipitating the carbides with Cr in the grain boundaries and by losing the Cr depletion layer.

Therefore, it is clear that amended independent claim 2 of the present invention has a substantially different composition from the invention disclosed by Kazuo and thus is not anticipated by Kazuo. Moreover, as Kazuo teaches away from Applicant's invention as claimed in claim 2, in which Cr precipitation is suppressed by decreasing the quantity of C and corrosion

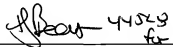
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,

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